70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

City of Barrie

Final

Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee

Monday, June 19, 2023 | **4:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by Community Safety Committee on September 19, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Councillor, N. Nigussie at 4:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 8 - Councillor N. Nigussie
R. Garvin
G. Kavanagh
C. Kenwell
R. Meier
L. Pope
E. Saba
D. Smith

STAFF:
Abilities and Accessibility Mgmt. Specialist, C. Dillon
Business Process Lead (Transit), M. McConnell
Deputy City Clerk, T. McArthur
Manager of Parks Planning, K. Bradley.

The Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION BY JESSICA CARUANA CONCERNING AN EQUITABLY INCLUSIVE PARK

Jennifer Caruana proposed an equitably inclusive park in the City of Barrie.

Ms. Caruana discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Reframing culture associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- A Venn diagram illustrating that true inclusion, equity, and diversity creates belonging;
- Photographs illustrating:
    - What is an inclusive park;
    - Belonging to all abilities;
    - Equitable inclusion for all ages;
    - Inclusion is easy;
    - Examples of activity panels; and
    - Inclusion is for everyone.
- The planning of developing an inclusive park and input from the disability community;
- Why an inclusive park is important to her as a teacher, therapist, and parent;
- The story of her daughter Lennon, diagnosed with a rare infant dementia called GM1 Gangliosidosis;
- Lennon's contribution to the National Institute of Health (NIH) and gene therapy research; and
- The next steps in her campaign for an inclusive park in the City and the possible naming of Lennon Park.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions to Ms. Caruana and City staff and received responses.

2022 MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE

Cheryl Dillon, Abilities and Accessibility Management Specialist provided an update on the City's 2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. She discussed obtaining accessibility and senior concerns and filling in the gaps in the new Official Plan, and updating City policies and plans with inclusive language.

Ms. Dillon noted that due to a motion from the Accessibility Advisory Committee, a staff policy was established to ensure that adult accessible change tables are included in new builds of City facilities and added to existing City facilities where possible to be built.

TRANSIT - ROYAL VICTORIA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE

Gwen Kavanagh, CARP Representative discussed her concerns with available transit options to and from the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.

Mike McConnell, Business Process Lead (Transit) discussed the implementation of a new transit network in Barrie that is being considered by Council to improve frequency, reduced trip times, better access, and coverage to new areas, and improve travel freedom for riders. He commented that the Express Service will be directly connecting users between RVH/Georgian College, Bayfield Street, Essa Road, and Park Place via a bus route on Highway 400.

WORK PLAN

The Committee provided ideas and feedback for the Committee's work plan to be accomplished for the 2022-2026 term. They discussed items that included updating City policies and plans with inclusive language, accessible spaces in transit, parks, City facilities, additional senior housing in Barrie, such as sharing spaces with students and co-housing, and Committee input with development agreements and City projects.

The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

CHAIRMAN